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DATA 400: Capstone

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Idea 2: Sentiment Analysis in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is a novel about a scientist who created life, but his greatest creation turned out to become highly problematic and evil in the eyes of Victor Frankenstein. With the novel having layered narration and offering different points of view throughout the story, the emotional tone is not always transparent. The objective of the project is to analyze how the emotional tone of *Frankenstein* changes throughout the novel by examining the sentiment of each chapter. The goal is to identify the peaks of positive and negative sentiment and then relate them back to key plot moments. In collecting the data for this project, the website "Project Gutenberg" has the entire text online where I can pull all my data from. I could possibly turn it into a txt file. From there, I would clean the data (remove the page numbers, title from each page, etc.). The next step would be to loop through the words in each chapter and pull out the emotion words, and complete my analysis from there. I will store the emotional words in a list by chapter and then score each list on a scale from -1 (highest negativity score) and 1 (highest positivity score), and then store the score in a table. Then, I will graph the table to see how the emotions progress with the story

This project will endow literary scholars with new evidence that either supports conclusions already made about the sentiment in the novel or hinders these conclusions. Also, it will benefit students doing research on this particular novel as they could find this information useful to support their research. Even further, this project could also be done with other novels

where emotions are highly relevant so the structure of the project can be utilized beyond *Frankenstein*. However, another implication is possible oversimplification of the emotions of the two main characters in the novel.

As mentioned earlier, a possible ethical implication is oversimplification or misinterpretation of the novel's sentiment. Because of this, I must make a comment about the nature of the analysis and mention that this analysis cannot be the sole resource people use to form opinions or use for research. A societal implication would be the bridge between the arts and data analytics. I would be helping expand interpretation and literary analysis to another level that might help some understand the text more fully. Finally, because the novel is coming from a public source, the use of the text is legal, I just need to make sure I properly give credit to the correct website and version of the text.